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is perceptible in the succeeding chapter on the lava fields of Northwestern Europe.

TREAT'S INJURIOUS INSECTS OF THE FARM AND GARDEN.[1]—One of the most hopeful signs of improvement in agriculture is the increased attention that is paid to injurious insects, the depredations of which have for many years attracted attention from entomologists, have at length forced themselves upon the notice of legislatures, and are now at last beginning to awaken the agricultural mind to the importance of the study of the life-history of the pests, with a view to combating them. In the words of the author, "There is a surprising lack of knowledge among otherwise well-educated people as to the life-history of even the most common insects. The question asked not only by those in my immediate neighborhood, but by letters from all parts of the country, show how slight is the popular knowledge on this most important branch of Natural History." Too true—even a non-entomologist finds himself surprised at the vastness of the ignorance, yet the mere asking questions is a great advance upon the state of mind that referred a plague of caterpillars to the providence of God.

In the two hundred and eighty pages of this little book all those insects that have developed into conspicuous pests are figured and described in terms sufficiently simple for the comprehension of any reader who is able to discriminate an insect from a spider or a myriapod, or the orders of insects from each other. That readers in search of knowledge may be without excuse, the author prefaces her work with information on the above essential points.

The subject is dealt with under the heads of, Insects injurious to Garden Vegetables; Insects injurious to Root Crops and Indian Corn; Insects injurious to Cereal Grains and the Grass Crops, including Clover; Insects injurious to Fruit Trees; Insects injurious to Small Fruits, and Insects of the Flower Garden and Greenhouse. In many cases methods of extermination or at least of palliation, that have previously proved successful are detailed, but, as is remarked with respect to the pea-weevil, in order to exterminate an insect from a district it is necessary that agriculture shall have progressed to such a point that all the farmers of a district shall mutually agree to carry out the proper measures in unison; in the case of the last-mentioned insect, such a result would be arrived at were all to cease the cultivation of peas for a simple year—a cheap price for the benefit accruing.

Among facts not very widely known are the destruction wrought among cabbages, by *Plusia brassicæ*, Riley; and that caused on parsley, carrot, and other cultivated umbellifers by the green, black-and-yellow-spotted caterpillers of the beautiful black yellow-spotted swallow-tail butterfly.

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[1] *Injurious Insects of the Farm and Garden.* By MARY TREAT. Fully illustrated. New York, Orange Judd Co., 751 Broadway. 1882.

The Lepidoptera and Coleoptera take the lead in the number of destructive species, and it is hard to say which works most damage, as most of our cultivated plants appear to have enemies in both ranks, though the potato and sweet-potato are especially affected by beetles, and the cabbage and fruit-trees generally, by caterpillars. The Hemiptera, with Phylloxera, the Chinch-bug and the aphides, come next in destructive powers; the Diptera contribute several species, the Hymenoptera, though principally beneficial to man, furnish him with saw-fly enemies; and the one destructive locust enumerated is a host in himself. The work is printed in clear type and forms in all respects an attractive volume. —*W. N. L.*

U. S. FISH COMMISSION REPORT FOR 1879.—This stout volume is full of good material, whether piscicultural or zoölogical or botanical. Several excellent papers, purely scientific and yet of value in the connection in which they appear, are sandwiched in between the commissioner's own report and the chapters relating to fish-culture. The most important of these, and abundantly illustrated with excellent wood-cuts, are Professor W. G. Farlow's Marine Algæ of New England, and Professor A. E. Verrill's report on the Cephalopods of the north-eastern coast of America. A large proportion of the volume is devoted to translations from European authors, which will undoubtedly prove useful to pisciculturists in this country, though there are chapters by H. W. Mason, Livingston Stone and Charles G. Atkins on the propagation of salmon. These reports are doing great good in both a practical and scientific direction.

RECENT BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS.—A system of Human Anatomy, including its medical and surgical relations. By Harrison Allen, M.D. Section I. Histology, by E. O. Shakspeare, M.D. Section II. Bones and Joints, by H. Allen, M.D. Philadelphia, 1882. From the author.

United States Commission of Fish and Fisheries. Report of the Commissioner for 1879. Washington, 1882. From the department.

The Mungoose on sugar estates in the West Indies. By D. Morris, M.A. Kingston, Jamaica, 1882. From the author.

Official Report on the Creston group of mines in the State of Durango, Mexico. By Professor Adolphe Rock. Philadelphia, 1882.

On Fishes Tails. By E. T. Newton, F.G.S. Reprint from the Journal of the Quekett Microscopical Club. London, 1882. From the author.

Camps in the Caribbees. The adventures of a naturalist in the Lesser Antilles. By Fred'k A. Ober. Boston, 1880.

Thèses présentées a la Faculté des Sciences de Lille, Université de France, pour obtenir le grade de Docteur ès Sciences Naturelles. Par Persifor Frazer, A.M., de Philadelphie. 1re Thèse: Memoire sur la Geologie de la parti sud-est de la Pennsylvanie. 2me Thèse: Propositions donneés par la Fuculté. Lille, 1882. From the author.

Report of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, from Nov. 16, 1880, to the close of the year 1881.